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THE Vegetable SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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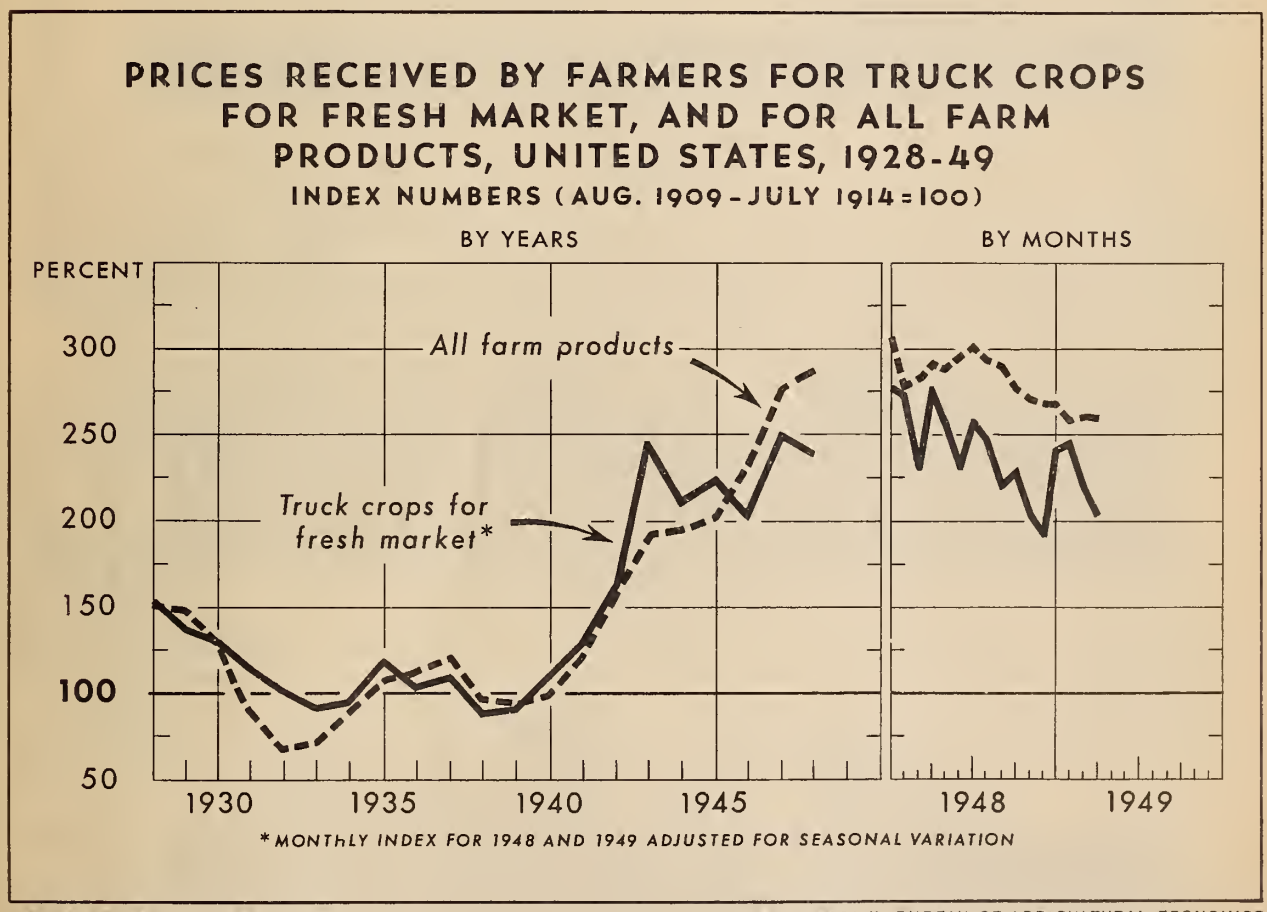

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 43882A-X BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

The index of prices received by farmers for commercial truck crops grown for fresh market generally has moved from year to year in much the same way as the index of prices received by farmers for all farm products. During the war, prices for truck crops rose faster than those for all farm products, and to a higher level. Through 1948 and early 1949, however, seasonally adjusted truck crop prices have been dropping faster than prices for farm products in general.

SWEETPOTATOES: PRODUCTION, AND PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS, BY REGIONS, 1909-48

DATA FOR 1948 ARE PRELIMINARY

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 26466 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Peaks in production of sweetpotatoes for the last 40 years were reached in 1919 in the Middle Atlantic States, and in 1932 in the South Atlantic States and the South Central States. Production temporarily increased in the early years of World War II, but since then has again declined, especially in the latter 2 areas. High prices received by farmers in recent years have not halted the decline in production

Some of the contributing factors have been the high labor requirements for sweetpotatoes, the opportunity to grow better-paying-crops, and difficulties in sweetpotato weevil control.

THE VEGETABLE SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, May 4, 1949

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SUMMARY

Prices received by farmers for most vegetables this year are expected to average lower than in 1948 because of: (1) slightly reduced domestic demand, (2) continued high level production of most commercial truck crops for fresh market and for processing, and (3) lower price-support levels and probable surpluses of potatoes, dry edible beans, and dry field peas. In May, June, and July the index of prices received by farmers for fresh market truck crops is expected to decline seasonally and to be slightly to moderately lower than in the same months last year.

Early estimates of the total tonnage of truck crops being produced for fresh market this spring (April, May, June), indicate an aggregate about as large as last year. Larger production than last year is expected for snap beans, beets, spinach, and early spring asparagus, cabbage and lettuce. Late spring watermelon acreage is up one-third over last year. On the other hand, spring tonnages of shallots and cauliflower and early spring cucumbers and green peas are considerably smaller than last year. Prospective acreages of cabbage, dry onions, and watermelons for summer marketing are slightly to considerably larger than last year.

Although strong demand continues for truck crops for commercial canning and freezing, prices received by farmers for such crops this year probably will average slightly lower than last year when record-high prices were received for lima beans, snap beans, beets, sweet corn, cucumbers for pickles, green peas, and pimientos. Commercial processors in reports to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics have indicated their intentions to plant or contract for planting considerably larger acreages this year than last in pimientos, spinach, beets, and snap beans, and slightly to moderately larger acreages of green peas and cucumbers for pickles. On the other hand, processors intend to reduce plantings of tomatoes, sweet corn, and cabbage under contract for kraut.

Consumption of canned and frozen vegetables is continuing at high rates, and current stocks are in a position generally favorable to producers bargaining for new contracts. However, stocks of catsup and chili sauce, canned sweet corn, and frozen green lima beans are high.

The 1948 commercial pack of canned vegetables was 6 percent smaller than the 1947 pack and about one-fourth smaller than the record large 1946 pack. The 1948 pack of frozen vegetables proved to be surprisingly large, only slightly smaller than the record large 1946 pack. The outlook for packs and consumption of both canned and frozen vegetables in 1949 is favorable.

The third largest potato crop in United States history was grown in 1948, and created a huge surplus at the 90 percent of parity support level required by law. Government support purchases and diversions of that crop to date total more than 124 million bushels and are continuing. Unless farmers reduce acreage this year below the 7 percent reduction indicated by their March intentions to plant, or unless yields should be surprisingly poor, another surplus is in prospect for 1949, though much smaller than in 1948. Price support on the 1949 crop differs from that on the 1948 crop in 3 major respects. The level of support has been reduced from 90 to 60 percent of parity. Only one support price at any one time is offered for all acceptable grades, rather than one price for U. S. No. 1's and a lower price for lower grades as in 1948. Last year the schedule of specific support prices for the late crop was not available before July; this year the complete schedule for the entire 1949 crop was announced February 7.

If tentative estimates of the total sales and support diversions of the 1948 crop are correct, per capita consumption of potatoes took a drop of unprecedented scale from the level of recent years. The long-time downward trend in apparent per capita consumption of potatoes was temporarily interrupted during the war. With the marketing of the 1948 crop, however, consumption nose-dived to a point about 15 pounds per capita lower than for the 1947 crop and more in line with the long-time prewar trend. Contributing factors in addition to the trend in per capita consumption were the high retail prices at a time when prices for vegetables and other foods generally were weakening, the large volume of potatoes diverted from normal trade channels by Government purchases, the unfavorable publicity given to the support program by part of the press and radio, and the inferior quality of many potatoes reaching retail markets.

Sweetpotato acreage and production have been declining since the peak acreage was reached in the depression year 1932. Acreage intentions of farmers indicate possible further reductions this year. Because of short supplies, prices to farmers and at retail have been high and are expected to continue high through the 1949 marketing year.

Growers of dry edible beans and dry field peas are working under a surplus situation, arising in the case of beans primarily from the near-record 1948 crop, and, in the case of peas, primarily from the sharp drop in export requirements. Support will be available for the 1949 crops at 80 percent of parity for beans and 60 percent of the "comparable"

parity for peas. In March, farmers were planning to reduce 1949 acreage of dry beans about 7 percent below the 1948 acreage, but planned an increase of about 30 percent in dry pea acreage. The acreage intentions are about in line with total annual domestic requirements for beans. However, unless farmers revise their acreage plans for peas drastically downward, or unless yields turn out unexpectedly low, the 1949 crop of dry peas will be considerably in excess of foreign and domestic demand at the new and lower level of support.

TRUCK CROPS FOR FRESH MARKET

Winter Season Production Above Average But Below Last Year

Total production of 18 commercial truck crops for fresh market shipment during the first quarter of this year is estimated at 1,337,900 tons. This is 11 percent less than production in the same quarter of 1948 but 12 percent more than the 1938-47 average for the winter season. This year's reduced winter tonnage was produced on an acreage 1 percent larger than that harvested last winter but about 11 percent larger than average.

Fresh market supplies from winter production were supplemented this year by large quantities of cabbage, carrots, and onions out of storage. Prices received by farmers for fresh market truck crops this winter averaged lower than a year earlier. Prices for carrots, eggplant, kale, onions, peppers, and tomatoes, were lower but those for most other truck crops were higher. The index of prices received for 11 such crops in the months of January through April this year was 282, 285, 263, and 236 respectively, compared with 320, 320, 295, and 340 in the corresponding months of 1948. Although the truck crop price index in early 1949 was moderately lower than in early 1948, it averaged considerably higher than for the same months of any year prior to 1943.

As indicated on the cover chart, prices received by farmers for fresh market truck crops rose faster than those for all farm products combined, and to a higher level, during the early years of the war. In recent years, however, seasonally adjusted truck crop prices have been dropping faster than prices for farm products in general.

Prospective Spring Production Larger Than Last Year

Total production of 21 truck crops produced for shipment to fresh market this spring (April, May, June) probably will be slightly larger than a year earlier. Acreage and production of crops reported to date, covering about 2/3 of the expected total, show slightly lower totals than for the same crops a year earlier, but this comparison omits watermelons and cantaloups, heavy contributors to tonnage.

Prospective spring production of individual crops is expected to be larger than last spring for snap beans, beets, and spinach, and early spring crops of asparagus, cabbage, and lettuce. On the other hand, spring tonnage of shallots and cauliflower and early spring tonnage of cucumbers

and green peas will be considerably smaller than a year earlier. The late spring acreage of watermelons is indicated to be more than one-third larger than a year earlier, and more than twice the average late spring acreage.

The index of prices received by farmers for fresh market truck crops in May and June is expected to decline seasonally. Truck crop prices in general probably will be on a moderately lower level than last spring, but are not expected to fall quite so rapidly this year from April through June as they did last year.

Summer Season Acreage Prospects

Prospective acreage of cabbage for summer marketing - including some that may be used for kraut manufacture - is slightly larger than that of a year earlier but slightly smaller than average for 1938-47. Last year the yields per acre of summer-season cabbage were unusually high.

Prospective acreage of dry onions for early summer harvest is considerably smaller than average but about equal to that of last year. However, prospective acreage for late summer harvest, which provides the major part of onions going into storage for consumption next fall, winter, and spring, is 8 percent larger than that of a year earlier, and 5 percent larger than average.

Early-summer watermelon acreage is slightly smaller than average, but slightly larger than last year. Acreage of late summer watermelons is expected to be considerably smaller than average but almost equal to last year. Most of the watermelons shipped to market come from the areas producing for early summer harvest.

Prices which growers will receive for these 3 summer crops probably will average slightly to moderately lower than last year, provided production parallels prospective acreage.

Cabbage

Although supplies of fresh cabbage produced for harvest in the first quarter - or winter season - of 1949 were much smaller than a year earlier and slightly smaller than the 10-year average winter season crop, prices received by farmers in January were considerably lower than a year earlier. Stocks of storage cabbage from the previous year's crop were several times larger this January 1 than the unusually small stocks on hand a year earlier, but were moderately lower than the 10-year average.

Carlot shipments of old-crop cabbage by rail and boat in the first quarter of this year were much heavier than last year week by week, and continued to move for 3 weeks after the time shipments ended in early 1948. On the other hand, carlot rail and boat shipments of new cabbage through mid-April have been much smaller this year than last. Average prices received by farmers for cabbage rose rapidly throughout the first quarter of 1949, but broke sharply in late March. Since mid-April, cabbage prices have recovered somewhat from the recent drop and are expected to remain near last year's levels through June.

Acreage of cabbage for late spring harvest is estimated to be about 6 percent larger than last year, when acreage was about average. Prospective acreage in areas producing for summer harvest is slightly larger than acreage in the same areas last year. Prospective early fall domestic type acreage, which includes a large part of the acreage from which commercial kraut packers obtain their supplies, is about equal to the 10-year average, but is about 3 percent smaller than last year. Principal change from last year by States is in Wisconsin, where a 10 percent or 1,000-acre reduction is expected.

Prospective acreage of early fall Danish-type cabbage, to which we look for most of the supplies for storage and use next winter, is almost as large as last year and about average. Minor reductions from last year are in prospect for Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. No forecast of 1949 yields in the early fall areas can yet be made; last year yields of both domestic and Danish types were substantially above average but not as high as in 1946.

Lettuce

Prices received by farmers for lettuce in the first quarter of this year averaged considerably higher than a year earlier because of the much smaller supplies. Winter-season acreage this year was slightly larger than a year earlier, but unfavorably cold weather sharply reduced yields and delayed development of the crop. Weekly shipments (rail and boat) of lettuce were increasing rapidly in early April, and prices which growers receive are expected to fall to more moderate levels in May and June. Because consumer demand in general is expected to be not quite as strong in the rest of this year as it was last year, it is probable that prices for lettuce will be somewhat lower also, unless supplies should prove unexpectedly small.

Production of lettuce for early spring harvest is estimated to be about 8 percent larger than for the same season last year, as both acreage and yield are higher than last year or average. Acreage of first plantings of lettuce in New Jersey for late spring harvest is larger than last year.

Onions

In sharp contrast to the 1947-48 season, when the United States average price received by farmers for dry onions was record high each month from September 1947 through May 1948, prices received by farmers for 1948 summer-crop onions through last fall and this winter and spring have averaged much lower, though moderately above the 1937-46 average. Carlot rail and boat shipments of old-crop onions in the first quarter of 1949 totaled more than one-third above shipments in the same period of 1948.

On the other hand, early spring carlot movement of new or 1949-crop dry onions has been only about one-third as large as corresponding shipments in 1948. Production for early spring shipment is estimated to be 12 percent smaller than a year earlier.

Acreage for late spring harvest is 14 percent larger than last year. While yields on this acreage have not been estimated, it seems likely that total production for late spring shipment will be smaller than last year, both because of the reduction in acreage in the higher yielding States and because the growing conditions on the whole have not been as favorable as they were last year.

Early summer supplies of onions probably will be near those of last year. Acreage for harvest in this period (June and early July) is nearly as large as last year and includes a substantial increase in acreage in New Jersey. Growing conditions have been favorable.

Prospective acreage for the important late-summer harvest area, based principally upon growers' intentions in late February, is about 8 percent larger than that harvested last year, and 5 percent larger than the 1938-47 average. In most past years, low prices received for the late-summer crop of onions in one year have been associated with decreases in acreage the following year. Indications are that some of this acreage will be land which grew potatoes and sugar beets last year. Average yield per acre of late-summer onions last year was near-record large.

Prices which growers will receive for dry onions in the latter half of 1949 are expected to average no higher than prices received last summer and fall, if production is about as large as it was in 1948.

Tomatoes

Winter-season production of tomatoes in south Florida, while about 8 percent smaller than the 1938-47 average winter crop, was 86 percent higher than last winter's very short crop. Consequently, carlot rail and boat shipments of 1949-season tomatoes through mid-April totaled more than 3 times the shipments to the same date a year earlier, and prices received by farmers in the first 4 months of 1949 averaged moderately to considerably lower than prices received in the same months last year. Prices received this winter and spring, however, were still high in comparison with prewar levels, and as usual attracted heavy imports, mainly from Mexico and Cuba. Imports have supplied more than half of the total rail and boat movement of tomatoes in the first 4 or 5 months of this year, as they did also in 1947 and 1948.

Estimated production of tomatoes for early spring marketing is 12 percent smaller than that produced in the same areas in 1948. Early summer acreage estimates will not be available before June. In this area in 1948, yields were high and the average price received was second only to the record high received in 1945. Prices received by farmers are expected to be somewhat below those received in late spring and early summer last year, when carlot rail shipments were lighter than in most recent years.

Asparagus

The early spring crop of asparagus, including asparagus used for processing, is about 14 percent larger than the early spring crop in 1948, as the result of an increase in both acreage and yield - but it is still slightly below average.

All but a very small part of the early spring crop is grown in California, Washington, and Oregon. Cold weather made the crop on the Pacific Coast later than usual, but shipments were increasing rapidly in early April.

Prices received by farmers for asparagus in March were considerably higher than in March 1948 because of the light shipments at the start of the season. For the entire early spring crop, however, prices may average slightly lower than last year because of the larger crop.

Last year about 2/3 of the crop was utilized by processors. Since current stocks of canned and frozen asparagus are substantially smaller than a year earlier, processor demand is expected to be at least as strong this year.

Other Important Spring Crops

Production of snap beans produced for early spring shipment is estimated to be 16 percent larger than last year, but 8 percent less than average. In the mid-spring areas, the crop is only 3 percent larger than last year but is 18 percent smaller than average. Prices which growers will receive in these areas probably will average slightly lower than last year but considerably above average.

Acreage of cantaloups for spring harvest is expected to be about 9 percent smaller than last year but 44 percent larger than average. The drop in acreage this year is all in Arizona where prices received last year were disappointing.

Prices received by farmers for carrots in the first quarter of this year were substantially lower than those of a year earlier, both because of large supplies of 1948 fall carrots carried over in storage and because 1949 winter season production was 17 percent larger than that of a year earlier and 45 percent above average. Freeze damage to the winter crop also may have been a factor. Production for spring harvest, however, is about 3 percent smaller than the spring 1948 crop and is only 5 percent larger than the 10-year average. United States average prices for carrots probably will rise somewhat during the next few months and may be near last year's levels this summer.

Prices received by farmers for celery in the first quarter of this year were nearly twice as high as the very low prices of a year earlier. Supplies of celery for winter-season harvest were somewhat above average, but much smaller than those of the winter of 1948 when the crop was almost one-half larger than average. The crop for spring harvest likewise is

about 10 percent smaller than last year, but is 58 percent larger than average. Development of the spring crop in California has been delayed by cold weather so that heaviest shipments from that State are expected in May. Prices which growers receive for celery in May are expected to continue well above the low prices received last year.

Acreage of watermelons grown for late spring harvest is more than twice as large as average and more than one-third larger than corresponding acreage a year ago. The prospective acreage in the early-summer harvest area, major commercial source of watermelons, is slightly larger than last year, but slightly smaller than average. Prospective acreage in the late-summer harvest areas is slightly smaller than last year but nearly one-fifth smaller than average. If production turns out in line with acreage prospects, early season prices will be substantially lower than last year. Later prices through the main harvest season probably will be only slightly to moderately lower than a year earlier, if yields are about the same as last year.

TRUCK CROPS FOR PROCESSING

Demand continues strong for vegetables for commercial processing. However, it is unlikely that prices received by farmers for processing crops this year will average as high as last year, when prices received for lima beans, snap beans, beets, sweet corn, cucumbers for pickles, green peas, and pimientos were all record-high. Processing crops for which substantial reductions in tonnage would seem most appropriate in view of current stocks or last year's large packs are cabbage for kraut, sweet corn, and tomatoes.

In late March, processors of snap beans reported their intentions to plant or contract for planting about 15 percent more acres than were planted in 1948. Such an acreage would be virtually equal to the 1938-47 acreage planted. If acreage is planted according to these intentions, and if abandonment and yields are average, then production of snap beans for processing this year would be slightly larger than either last year or average. Prices which growers receive for snap beans grown for processing are expected to average fully as high this year as those received last year.

Early season intentions of packers indicate that they may plant or contract for planting about 4 percent less acreage of cabbage for kraut than was contracted for planting in 1948, and 13 percent less than the 10-year average. In addition to the cabbage from their own acreage or acreage under contract, packers use each year a substantial quantity of cabbage purchased on the open market. Cabbage for kraut bought on the open market generally has accounted for 2/5 to 2/3 of the total tonnage used for kraut each year. The acreage represented by such open market purchases of course can not yet be estimated for this year.

As noted above under crops for fresh market, the prospective acreage of early fall domestic-type cabbage - from which supplies are drawn both for fresh market and for kraut manufacture - is slightly smaller than last year but about equal to the 10-year average.

Late March intentions of commercial canners and freezers were to plant only about 2 percent less acreage to sweet corn this year than was planted last year. This acreage, however, if planted would be fully seven percent larger than the 10-year average acreage planted. With average abandonment and average yields, such an acreage would produce a crop moderately smaller than last year's record crop, but about one-tenth larger than average. Because of the large carry-over of canned sweet corn, processors generally have been offering moderately lower prices to growers this year.

Acreage of green peas planted for canning and freezing may be about 9 percent larger than last year and 7 percent larger than the 10-year average, if processors carry out their plans of early March. About 80 percent of the contemplated acreage represents acreage for canning. Largest percentage increases are planned in New York, Illinois, Idaho, and Ohio. Increases in acreage are planned both for freezing and for canning. It is expected that prices received by growers for peas grown for canning and freezing will average slightly to moderately lower than those received last season.

More than half of the annual production of spinach for commercial processing is grown in the winter-season areas of California and Texas. In these 2 States, production for processing was estimated in late February to be 48 percent larger than that grown in the same areas last year, but only 5 percent larger than the 10-year average. Production estimates covering all States producing spinach for commercial processing will be available in November. Not much change from last year is expected in prices paid to growers.

Tomato canners and tomato products manufacturers in April were planning to plant or contract for planting an acreage about 4 percent smaller than last year's reduced acreage, and nearly one-fourth less than the 1938-47 average. Acreage was greatest in 1942, when more than 600,000 acres were planted under the stimulus of wartime needs. If the acreage planted is equal to the intentions expressed in April, and if abandonment and yields are equal to the 1943-47 average, then production this year would be about 2.1 million tons, or about one-fourth less than was grown for processing in 1948 when yields for the country as a whole were record large.

An increase of about 4 percent over 1948 and 28 percent above average is planned in the acreage to be planted to cucumbers for pickles in 1949, according to April plans of pickle packers. Such an acreage with average abandonment of about 10 percent would give an acreage for harvest also about 4 percent larger than that harvested last year and considerably above average. Acreage actually planted of course may vary from these intentions.

Beet canners' April plans called for an increase of 19 percent over 1948 acreage planted. Processors plan an acreage of pimientos in Georgia this year not quite double that planted last year; if planted, this would be a record high acreage.

CANNED VEGETABLES

1948 Pack About 6 Percent Smaller Than 1947 Pack 1/

Reliable data concerning the pack and stocks of canned vegetables have been available only on a reduced scale and considerably less frequently than during the war, since the dropping of monthly reports which the Office of Price Administration formerly required of packers and wholesale distributors.

The total commercial pack of canned vegetables in 1948 was about 6 percent smaller than the 1947 pack and about one-fourth smaller than the record pack in 1946. Of the major items, the 1948 canned packs of sweet corn (near-record), snap beans, tomato juice, beets, and lima beans were considerably larger than in 1947, but packs of green peas, tomatoes, tomato products other than juice, pickles (including bulk), and most other items were considerably smaller in 1948 than in 1947.

Current Stock Position Is Favorable To Producers

Aggregate stocks of canned vegetables at the end of 1948 were only slightly larger than at the beginning. Principal increases over stocks at the beginning of the year were in sweet corn, tomatoes, tomato juice and other tomato products, carrots, and lima beans. Most other items were lower.

At the present time, sweet corn and catsup and chili sauce are the only major canned items for which current stocks indicate a surplus situation. March 1, 1949 stocks of canned snap beans and green peas held by packers and wholesale distributors were considerably smaller than those of a year earlier. Distributors' stocks of canned sweet corn, tomatoes, and tomato juice (including tomato-vegetable juice combinations) on March 1 this year were also down moderately to considerably from a year earlier. However, canners' stocks of tomatoes and tomato juice were considerably larger than on March 1 of 1948, and their stocks of canned sweet corn were more than double, reflecting the near-record 1948 pack. Combined packer and distributor stocks of tomatoes and tomato juice were up slightly to moderately, while combined stocks of sweet corn were up almost 48 percent.

Apparent total consumption of commercially canned vegetables in 1948 was at the rate of about 36.5 pounds per capita, in comparison with 40 pounds in 1947 and the record rate of 46.6 pounds in 1946.

1/ Data are compiled by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from various sources, principally reports of the Bureau of the Census (Department of Commerce) and the National Canners Association. As compiled here, canned vegetables include asparagus, green lima beans, snap beans, beets, carrots, corn, mixed vegetables, peas, pumpkin and squash, spinach, other leafy greens, kraut (including bulk), pimientos, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, tomatoes, tomato pulp, tomato juice (including tomato-vegetable juice combinations), tomato sauce, tomato paste, catsup and chili sauce, and pickles (including bulk).

Production and Consumption Of
Canned Vegetables To Remain High In 1949

Consideration of past trends in consumption of canned vegetables and the current generally favorable stock position leads to the conclusion that consumption probably will continue in 1949 at a rate about the same as in 1948, and that the aggregate canned pack may approach the 1948 pack, weather permitting.

FROZEN VEGETABLES

1948 Frozen Vegetable Pack
Second Only To Record 1946 Pack

The 1948 pack of commercially frozen vegetables is estimated to be nearly as large as the record 1946 pack of 450 million pounds and more than one-fourth larger than the 1947 pack. The 1948 frozen pack of snap beans, green lima beans, spinach, asparagus, broccoli, and corn-on-the-cob were considerably larger than the 1947 packs, but the 1948 pack of frozen cut-corn was considerably smaller and that of green peas moderately smaller.

Apparent per capita consumption of frozen vegetables in 1948 was substantially higher than the previous record high rate in 1947.

Frozen Vegetable Stock
Position Healthy

Stocks of frozen vegetables held in storage April 1 this year totaled 205.6 million pounds, only slightly more than holdings on the same date 1948. During March, net withdrawals of frozen vegetables from storage were moderately less than during March 1948.

Withdrawals of peas and lima beans accounted for more than two-thirds of total March withdrawals of frozen vegetables, but these two items continued as heaviest items in stock and accounted for nearly half of the total holdings. Holdings of frozen green peas this April 1 were more than one-tenth lower than a year earlier. Holdings of frozen lima beans this April were more than one-half larger than on April 1, 1948. April holdings of frozen snap beans also were substantially higher this year than last year or average, but holdings of other major frozen vegetables were below average.

Both pack and consumption of frozen vegetables are expected to continue at very high levels in 1949, though the mild slackening of employment and demand may not support record levels.

POTATOES

Support-Purchases
Of 1948-Crop Larger

The 1948 potato crop of 446 million bushels was more than 100 million bushels larger than could be marketed commercially at the 1948-crop support level of 90 percent of parity. Marketing of this crop is now nearing its end, with the Government still buying heavily. In early April, Government purchases for price-support accounted for more than one-fifth of the total weekly carlot movement by rail and boat. Through May 2, Government purchases of 1948-crop potatoes totaled approximately 124 million bushels.

Smaller Acreage Of Early
Potatoes This Year

Shipments of new or 1949-crop potatoes are increasing rapidly from week-to-week and are expected to surpass the volume of shipments of old or 1948-crop potatoes in May as usual. Production of commercial early potatoes in the areas producing for shipment during the winter and early spring seasons this year was considerably larger than last year and moderately larger than average for the years 1938-47. Even at the one-third lower level of support in effect under this year's program, Government price-support purchases of new potatoes have been required. Through May 2, support purchases of the new crop totaled about 515 thousand bushels. Purchases to date have been primarily U. S. No. 2's and U. S. No. 1 Size B. Production in these 2 earliest areas, however, normally accounts for only about one percent of the year's total crop.

Acreage of commercial early potatoes grown for late-spring harvest is estimated to be 15 percent smaller than last year and about one-fifth smaller than the 10-year average. This area generally produces more than half of the total commercial early potatoes. Because of cold weather earlier in the season, development of the crop has been delayed and early shipments have been somewhat lighter than last year in California, largest producing State in the late-spring group. Acreage for summer harvest, which generally provides a little more than one-third of the commercial early potatoes, is about one-sixth smaller than last year and one-fifth smaller than the 10-year average.

Smaller Surplus Probable
This Year

If farmers plant the acreage of potatoes indicated by the March report of their intentions, the total 1949-crop acreage would be about 7 percent smaller than that planted in 1948, but slightly larger than that recommended in the final acreage goal which called for a 9 percent reduction. If farmers carry out their March intentions, the acreage planted will be the smallest in 70 years. Such an acreage, with yields by States equal to the 1946-48 averages, would produce a crop of more than 380 million bushels; with record yields like 1948, the crop would exceed 400 million bushels. Either crop would create another surplus, though a much smaller surplus than in 1948.

Price Support Program For The 1949 Potato Crop

Significant changes from former years have been made in the 1949 program for supporting the price of potatoes. Since 1942, potatoes have been supported at 90 percent of parity. The 1949 crop, however, has a support level of 60 percent of parity in keeping with the minimum provisions of the Agricultural Act of 1948. All grades above culls are to be supported at the same price for any one month and area, in contrast to last year when U. S. No. 1 grade potatoes were supported at one level and certain lower grades were supported at 50 percent of the level for Number 1's. The 1949 support level is approximately one-third lower than the weighted average level of support for all grades in 1948.

Growers know support prices farther in advance this year than last because the support schedule already has been announced covering the entire season.

Potato Consumption Apparently Again Back In Line With Long-Time Downhill Trend

Per capita consumption of potatoes in the United States showed a fairly consistent downward trend for several decades before the last war, at an average rate of decline of about 1-1/2 to 2 pounds per year. During the war, however, consumption apparently leveled off temporarily within the range of 125 to 133 pounds per capita, or slightly more than 2 bushels per person.

Preliminary estimates of disposition of the 1948 crop, together with Government price-support purchase figures, indicate that consumption dropped abruptly from a level of about 123 pounds in calendar 1947 to about 108 pounds in 1948. The magnitude of this drop is completely unprecedented.

In searching for an explanation of this sharp drop in consumption in the face of near-record supplies, a number of possible factors come to mind. For one thing, this may be a delayed but cumulative type of adjustment which puts us back more or less in line with the long-time trend in consumption. Another fact is that retail prices for potatoes were at or near the highest levels in history at a time when prices for vegetables and other foods generally were weakening. A large volume of potatoes was diverted from consumption channels by the huge Government purchases necessary to support the price received by farmers at the 90 percent of parity minimum level required by law. Another acknowledged but perhaps exaggerated factor is the fact that the support program in many cases offered the most attractive market for the best quality potatoes, while lower grade potatoes could be sold commercially at a price above the support for such grades but below the support level on the better grades. Another factor of uncertain importance is the fact that the publicity given to the support program by press and radio may have caused a few consumers to consider potato prices out of line and to overlook the fact that, even at such prices, potatoes were one of their most economical foods.

Disposition of Potatoes
Bought For Price Support

The Government has found outlets at extremely low prices for the potatoes acquired in the price-support program. The 74,531,515 hundredweight of 1948-crop potatoes purchased or diverted through May 2 have been converted or diverted to the following forms and outlets outside the usual food-trade channels: 36 percent to alchohol; 27 to livestock feed; 26 percent to potato flour and dehydrated potatoes; 5 to starch; 4 to direct distribution (school lunch and institutional use); and 2 percent to other uses or undetermined.

SWEETPOTATOES

Short Supplies Giving Rise
To Record High Prices

Because of the very small crop of sweetpotatoes last year, supplies available for shipment this spring have been much smaller than a year earlier. Prices received by farmers for sweetpotatoes have been record high each month beginning last December and are expected to continue high until the 1948-crop supplies are gone.

Planting Intentions
Indicate Further Cut in Acreage

If farmers carry out their March intentions, the acreage of sweetpotatoes planted this year would be 6 percent smaller than that planted last year, 32 percent smaller than the 1938-47 average, and the smallest in about 50 years.

Acreage in sweetpotatoes has been declining since the record high acreage of more than one million acres grown in the depression year 1932. Among the factors which may be responsible for this downward trend are: the scarcity and increasing cost of farm labor coupled with the very high labor requirements for the sweetpotato crop; the opportunity to grow better-paying crops such as cotton, and the increasing damage from - and cost of controlling - the sweetpotato weevil.

If Another Short Crop This Year,
Continued High Prices Seem Likely

Although some slackening of general demand for food is expected in late 1949, it is probable that growers could expect to receive prices for the 1949 crop about as high as for the 1948 crop if production is slightly smaller as implied by planting intentions. At the present time, prospects for any substantial surplus of sweetpotatoes this year seem very slight.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS

Heavy Support Purchases Required On 1948 Crop

The 1948 crop of dry edible beans - more than 20.8 million bags (100 pounds each, uncleaned) - was the second largest crop of record and has been exceeded only by the 1943 crop of 21 million bags. With the slackening of demand for export, this crop clearly put us in a surplus situation at support prices. Through March 25, the Government had purchased nearly 800,000 bags of the 1948 crop for export, and is obligated under loans and purchase agreement to take several million more bags if offered. At the close of the 1948-crop marketing season, the Government probably will be holding most of the carry-over. The total carry-over is expected to be several million bags, considerably more than the 1935-39 average carry-over, and several times larger than the very low quantities carried over in recent crop years.

Bean Acreage Probably Smaller in 1949 Than in 1948

Planting intentions of farmers in March this year pointed to a reduction of about 7 percent from the 1948 acreage and 8 percent less than the 10-year average.

If such an acreage is planted, and if yields by States equal the 1943-47 average, the crop would be fully one-fifth smaller than the near-record 1948 crop, but only slightly smaller than the 10-year average. Such a crop probably would be about in line with domestic demand at the reduced level of support applicable to the 1949 crop.

1949 Bean Crop Support At 80 Percent Level

The Department announced April 6 that price support for the 1949 crop of dry edible beans will be carried out at 80 percent of the parity price as of September 1, 1949. Support will be given through loans and purchase agreements on eligible classes and grades of beans.

DRY FIELD PEAS

1948-Crop Supplies In Surplus

Although the 1948 crop of dry field peas was not quite 3.6 million bags (100 pounds each, uncleaned), little more than one-half the size of the 1947 crop and about 2/3 the 1937-46 average, supplies have been in excess of demand at support prices. Through March 25, 1949 the Government had purchased a total of 447,720 bags (cleaned basis) of 1948-crop peas for export. Also, approximately 450,000 bags were under loan and purchase agreements.

Lower Goal and Price Support
But Higher Acreage Intentions

Because foreign demand for dry field peas dropped sharply in 1948, total requirements for production in 1949 are substantially lower than in any of the last several years. The acreage goal for 1949 suggests a considerable reduction from the wartime planted acreages of smooth peas, and a continuation of the same acreage of wrinkled peas which are used primarily as seed for growing the fresh market and canning crop peas.

Price support for the 1949 crop has been announced at 60 percent of the "comparable" parity price July 1, 1949. Support will be given through loans and purchase agreements as in 1948 when support was at the 90 percent level.

Farmers' planting intentions in March pointed toward an increase of about 30 percent over the dry pea acreage planted last year, and about 17 percent larger than that recommended in the goal. Consequently growers are being urged to reconsider their acreage plans with a view toward a reduction in line with the goal. Foreign and domestic demand are not expected to justify production in excess of that contemplated by the goal.

Table 1.- Frozen vegetables: Cold-storage holdings, April 1, 1949, with comparisons

Commodity	Average 1944-48	1948	1949			
	April 1	April 1	Jan. 1	Feb. 1	March 1	April 1
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Asparagus	6,027	6,023	8,101	6,949	5,949	4,321
Beans, lima	12,488	23,665	51,824	48,227	43,007	36,964
Beans, snap	11,628	10,031	22,804	20,179	16,810	14,560
Broccoli	10,039	7,811	9,162	9,339	8,015	9,652
Brussels sprouts	---	5,130	5,087	4,981	4,801	4,359
Cauliflower	---	5,181	7,596	7,867	6,871	6,639
Corn, sweet	17,450	22,166	24,666	21,542	18,282	15,332
Peas, green	44,261	71,248	92,929	84,994	73,172	62,023
Pumpkin and squash	---	5,939	5,654	5,361	4,690	3,713
Spinach	15,112	11,505	10,797	9,418	7,418	9,560
All other vegetables	53,075	27,929	43,205	43,190	40,491	38,495
Total	170,080	196,628	281,825	262,047	229,506	205,618

Compiled from reports of the Production and Marketing Administration.

Table 2.- Truck crops for fresh market: Acreage and production, average 1938-47, annual 1948 and indicated 1949

Seasonal group and crop	Acreage: Average 1938-47	Acreage: 1948	Acreage: Indicated 1949: Acres	Acreage: Indicated 1949: % of av.	Acreage: Indicated 1949: % of '48	Production (equivalent tons): Average 1938-47	Production: 1948	Production: Indicated 1949: Tons	Production: Indicated 1949: % of av.	Production: Indicated 1949: % of '48
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Pct.	Pct.	Tons	Tons	Tons	Pct.	Pct
SPRING										
Asparagus 1/	128,270	123,630	127,960	100	104	4/97,000	4/81,000	4/93,400	96	114
Beans, lima	8,180	4,750	4,250	52	89	---	---	---	---	---
Beans, snap 2/	51,960	40,700	42,400	82	104	64,900	51,700	56,300	87	109
Beets	1,650	1,050	1,100	67	105	8,000	4,800	6,200	78	129
Cabbage 3/	31,090	30,900	31,000	100	100	4/98,600	4/94,200	4/106,400	108	113
Cantaloups	19,360	30,600	27,900	144	91	---	---	---	---	---
Carrots	9,840	8,400	9,300	95	111	96,400	104,700	101,400	105	97
Cauliflower	9,230	11,950	10,700	116	90	57,200	81,300	61,100	107	75
Celery	4,900	7,500	6,700	137	89	99,400	174,200	156,600	158	90
Cucumbers 4/	10,130	11,800	11,200	111	95	22,800	35,600	23,500	103	66
Eggplant	1,020	2,500	2,000	196	80	5,600	13,400	10,700	191	80
Honey Balls 5/	540	400	370	69	92	---	---	---	---	---
Honey Dews 5/	420	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Lettuce 4/	53,070	56,870	58,850	111	103	248,600	260,800	282,000	113	108
Onions	63,580	62,370	62,970	99	101	4/95,100	4/104,800	4/92,200	97	88
Peas, green 4/	27,710	11,350	10,450	38	92	33,000	19,100	14,900	45	78
Peppers, green	3,380	3,300	7,300	216	88	10,200	24,400	20,500	201	84
Shallots	2,220	1,900	1,700	77	89	3,100	2,400	1,600	52	67
Spinach	10,540	8,750	8,810	84	101	27,900	24,100	24,400	87	101
Tomatoes 4/	52,260	52,900	43,500	83	82	122,100	144,300	126,400	104	88
Watermelons	34,150	52,600	71,000	208	135	---	---	---	---	---
Total spring to date 1/3/										
Acreage	523,500	529,220	539,460	103	102	---	---	---	---	---
Acreage and production	398,550	371,250	359,050	90	97	1,089,900	1,221,600	1,177,600	108	96
GRAND TOTAL SPRING 1/ 3/	619,090	617,090	---	---	---	1,717,400	1,984,900	---	---	---
			Prospective							
EARLY SUMMER										
Cabbage 3/	12,430	12,800	13,200	106	103	---	---			
Onions	7,160	5,500	5,490	77	100	---	---			
Watermelons	189,650	182,500	186,400	98	102	---	---			
LATE SUMMER								To be reported later		
Cabbage 3/	20,660	17,670	18,030	87	102	---	---			
Onions	62,160	60,860	65,450	105	108	---	---			
Watermelons	24,750	20,390	20,160	81	99	---	---			
Total summer to date 3/	316,810	299,720	308,730	97	103	---	---			
GRAND TOTAL SUMMER 3/	725,640	706,670	---	---	---	3,143,600	3,332,300	---	---	---
EARLY FALL										
Cabbage 3/	61,340	62,100	60,600	99	98	---	---	---	---	---
GRAND TOTAL FALL	256,090	282,570	---	---	---	1,579,600	1,807,300	---	---	---

1/ Includes asparagus for processing. 2/ Early and mid-spring only. 3/ Includes cabbage for sauerkraut. 4/ Early spring only. 5/ Early covered acreage only.

Table 3.- Truck crops: Unweighted average wholesale price at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U. S. No. 1 when quoted), indicated periods, 1948 and 1949

Market and commodity	Unit	1948 Month March	1948 Week ended Apr. 17	1948-49 season Month Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Week ended Apr. 16
		Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
New York								
Asparagus, select and extra fancy, Calif.	Pyramid crate	11.62	6.32	---	---	---	12.52	7.05
Beans, lima, Florida	Bushel	5.58	4.78	1/6.29	5.53	5.31	5.47	4.05
Beans, snap, green, Fla.	Bushel	3.78	5.05	2.63	4.68	4.48	3.43	4.52
Beets, bunched, Texas	1/2 L.A. crate	1.92	2.50	2.51	2.15	3.27	2.47	3.88
Beets, topped, Texas	50-lb. sack	1.79	2.00	---	---	2.13	2.13	4.25
Beets, topped, eastern	Bushel	1.42	2/1.85	1.00	1.09	1.17	---	1.38
Broccoli, western	Pony crate	6.80	7.85	6.98	9.43	9.74	6.94	7.65
Cabbage, domestic, Fla.	1-3/4 bu. box	1.95	3.70	3/1.54	1.85	2.12	2.68	1.62
Cabbage, domestic, Tex.	2/3 crate	2.20	3.65	---	2.05	2.33	---	---
Cabbage, Danish, N. Y.	50-lb. sack	---	---	.88	.84	.96	1.42	1.57
Carrots, bunched, western	L. A. crate	6.71	8.95	5.24	6.30	6.01	4.90	5.78
Carrots, topped, Texas	50-lb. sack	3.95	6.00	---	---	---	1.55	1.56
Carrots, topped, eastern	Bushel	---	---	.84	.87	1.00	.88	.96
Cauliflower, western	Pony crate	2.82	2.98	2.75	3.60	3.61	3.09	3.25
Celery, G. Heart, Florida	16-inch crate	3.10	2.60	4.53	6.28	5.17	4.83	2.95
Celery, G. Heart, Calif.	1/2 crate	---	---	5.34	8.02	---	---	---
Celery, Pascal, Florida	16-inch crate	2.53	2.31	---	5.06	5.00	4.12	3.12
Cucumbers, Florida	Bushel	10.70	3.98	4.04	8.67	9.66	7.69	7.30
Eggplant, Florida	Bushel	5.72	2.80	4.18	3.93	3.45	2.60	2.60
Escarole, Florida	Bushel	1.62	2.90	1.86	2.51	3.11	2.51	1.55
Kale, Virginia	Bushel	1.36	.84	.83	.67	.69	.68	.54
Lettuce, Icebert, western	L. A. crate	4.23	6.60	5.79	6.54	8.74	8.52	9.80
Lettuce, Big Boston, Fla.	E. crate	---	---	1.91	2.60	3.33	3.32	2.79
Onions:								
Sw. Spanish, western 4/	50-lb. sack	6.83	---	2.27	2.55	2.76	2.57	2.75
Yellow, New York	50-lb. sack	5.65	6.00	1.51	1.35	1.36	1.25	1.31
Peas, green, Mexico	Bushel	5.78	4.18	5/5.62	6.62	---	5.91	5/4.65
Peppers, green, Florida	Bushel	3.22	3.68	6.38	7.46	2.47	3.78	3.72
Spinach, Savoy type, Tex.	Bushel	1.93	1.08	1.69	2.59	3.46	2.68	6/1.29
Tomatoes, Florida 7/	Lug 6x6 & lgr	5.20	6.37	2.48	5.06	---	4.84	3.60
Tomatoes, Florida 7/	Lug 6x7	4.93	5.88	2.26	4.86	---	4.31	3.38
Tomatoes, Cuba 7/	Lug 6x6 & lgr	4.98	6.28	3.72	5.84	4.66	3.59	3.28
Tomatoes, Cuba 7/	Lug 6x7	4.92	6.05	3.57	5.68	4.63	3.44	3.08
Chicago								
Asparagus, select and extra fancy, Calif.	Pyramid crate	11.64	6.40	---	---	---	---	6.68
Beans, snap, green, Fla.	Bushel	3.56	5.28	2.76	4.82	4.47	3.33	4.15
Beets, bunched, Texas	1/2 L.A. crate	1.77	1.97	1.88	1.78	3.35	2.09	2.92
Broccoli, western	Pony crate	6.66	7.18	6.32	7.67	8.26	6.10	7.10
Broccoli, Texas	Pony crate	1/	---	5.27	6.14	6.99	4.73	---
Cabbage, domestic, Tex.	50-lb. sack	1.75	3.49	1.39	1.56	2.02	2.51	---
Cabbage, domestic, Tex.	L. A. crate	3.48	5.45	3.04	3.20	3.72	4.44	2.88
Cabbage, Danish, Wis.	50-lb. sack	---	---	.79	.82	1.27	---	---
Carrots, bunched, western	L. A. crate	6.01	7.35	4.52	5.55	4.60	3.74	4.32

- Continued

Table 3.- Truck crops: Unweighted average wholesale price at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U. S. No. 1 when quoted), indicated periods, 1948 and 1949 -Continued

Market and commodity	Unit	1948 March	1948 Week ended Apr. 17	1948-49 season Month Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Week ended Apr. 1
		Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Chicago (Cont'd):								
Carrots, bunched, Texas	L.A. crate	5.45	7.18	3.72	4.77	4.27	3.45	3.52
Carrots, topped, Ill.	50-lb. sack	---	---	.69	.71	.71	.65	.62
Cauliflower, western	Pony crate	2.61	2.52	2.23	3.48	3.20	2.52	2.80
Celery, G. Heart, Florida	16-inch crate	3.29	2.75	4.26	6.64	5.53	5.12	3.25
Celery, G. Heart, Calif.	1/2 crate	---	---	5.20	7.01	---	---	---
Celery, Pascal, Florida	16-inch crate	2.43	2.68	---	5.97	5.08	4.16	3.20
Celery, Pascal, Calif.	16-inch crate	2.90	3.18	3.70	6.30	6.05	4.71	2.95
Cucumbers, Florida	Bushel	11.88	4.25	4.18	9.38	8/9.50	8.84	8.65
Eggplant, Florida	Bushel	6.14	3.46	3.94	4.59	3.98	2.91	3.17
Escarole, Florida	Bushel	1.55	2.05	1.65	2.70	3.03	2.69	1.94
Lettuce, Icebert, western	L.A. crate	3.87	5.22	5.39	6.26	8.51	7.95	7.52
Lettuce, leaf, hothouse	10-lb. basket	1.27	2.36	1.21	1.52	2.86	2.92	2.36
Onions:								
Sw. Spanish, western 4/	50-lb. sack	6.99	---	1.92	2.27	2.30	2.26	2.40
Yellow, midwestern	50-lb. sack	5.88	6.06	1.34	1.22	1.26	1.21	1.25
Peas, green, western	Bushel	---	3.97	4.66	---	---	9/4.46	4.50
Peppers, green, Florida	Bushel	3.68	4.30	7.62	9.07	3.50	4.77	4.30
Spinach, flat type, Tex.	Bushel	1.72	10/1.69	1.99	2.16	3.15	2.02	1.75
Tomatoes, Mexico	Lug 6x6 & lgr	5.52	6.58	---	6.71	5.72	1/5.11	---
Tomatoes, Mexico	Lug 6x7	4.97	6.05	---	6.32	5.32	1/4.32	4.05
Tomatoes, Florida	6x6 & larger	---	---	4.89	1/7.00	6.94	5.38	5.00
Tomatoes, Florida	6x7	---	---	3.96	1/6.40	6.48	4.89	4.62
Tomatoes, repacked	10-lb. carton	---	---	1.80	2.72	2.75	2.29	2.07

1/ Less than 10 quotations.
2/ Long type.
3/ North Carolina
4/ 3-inch minimum.
5/ California
6/ Virginia
7/ Auction sales
8/ Cuba
9/ Mexico
10/ Illinois

Compiled from records of the Production and Marketing Administration.

Table 4.- Truck crops: Average prices received by growers, United States, March 1-15, 1949, with comparisons

Commodity	Unit: Container	Unit: Weight	5-year average 1938-42	March 1-15, 1948	Month: March 1948	Month: Feb. 1949	March 1-15, 1949
		Pounds	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Artichokes	Box	40	2.28	3.50	3.35	6.25	5.50
Asparagus	Crate	30	2.67	6.00	5.75	---	7.50
Beans, lima	Bushel	32	2.12	4.25	3.20	4.00	4.25
Beans, snap	Bushel	30	1.43	2.00	2.20	2.70	2.50
Beets	Bushel	52	.47	.50	.55	.70	.65
Cabbage	Ton	2,000	16.08	24.10	36.10	34.40	57.30
Carrots	Bushel	50	.88	2.00	1.85	1.45	1.30
Cauliflower	Crate	37	.81	1.40	1.30	1.80	1.50
Celery	Equiv. 1/2 crate	65	1.45	1.90	1.75	3.85	3.60
Cucumbers	Bushel	48	2.19	7.50	4.70	4.50	6.50
Eggplant	Bushel	33	1.02	5.50	3.05	2.40	1.75
Lettuce	Crate	70	1.81	2.45	2.30	5.25	5.40
Onions	Sack	50	.78	4.95	5.10	.90	.80
Peas, green	Bushel	30	1.53	4.15	3.25	1/	1/
Peppers, green	Bushel	25	1.26	2.15	1.60	1.50	2.00
Spinach	Bushel	18	.54	.80	.75	1.60	1.10
Strawberries	24 qt. crate	36	4.46	7.45	10.70	10.50	12.20
Tomatoes	Bushel	53	2.28	7.00	7.15	6.95	5.25

1/ Prices not estimated, due to January freeze.

Table 5.- Truck crops for commercial processing: Intended plantings 1949, with comparisons

Crop	Planted acreage: Average 1938-47	Planted acreage: 1948	Planted acreage: Intended 1949	1949 as a percentage of-: Average 1938-47	1949 as a percentage of-: 1948
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Percent	Percent
Beans, snap	114,430	99,500	114,260	99.9	114.8
Beets	15,930	13,870	16,500	103.6	119.0
Cabbage for kraut 1/	9,870	8,960	8,600	87.1	96.0
Corn, sweet	462,290	505,800	496,300	107.4	98.1
Cucumbers for pickles	111,400	136,740	142,080	127.5	103.9
Peas, green	423,280	415,000	452,930	107.0	109.0
Pimientos (Georgia only)	13,840	14,300	27,000	195.0	188.8
Spinach, California and Texas only 2/	15,160	9,860	12,060	80.0	122.0
Tomatoes	520,880	419,810	401,490	77.1	95.6
Total 3/	1,687,080	1,623,840	1,671,220	99.1	102.9

1/ "Contract acreage" only. "Open market" acreage is in addition to this and usually amounts to about half the total acreage of cabbage for kraut. 2/ Spinach for processing is grown in 4 other States (Maryland, Virginia, Arkansas, and Oklahoma). and the acreage in California and Texas is about half the total acreage.
3/ Including only parts of the acreage for kraut cabbage and for spinach, as indicated in footnotes 1 and 2. In addition to these 9 crops, the acreage of asparagus and lima beans for processing is still to be reported. NOTE that the pimiento acreage is for Georgia only; a relatively small acreage is grown in Calif.

Table 6.- Truck crops, potatoes, and sweetpotatoes: Carlot (rail and boat) shipments from originating points in the United States, for indicated periods in 1948 and 1949 1/

Commodity	1948 Month March	1948 Week ended April 17	1948-49 season Month December	January	February	March	Week ended Apr. 16
	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars
Asparagus	250	376	---	---	---	138	393
Beans, snap and lima	706	167	816	376	413	642	177
Beets	142	72	52	88	62	115	23
Broccoli	199	41	183	97	201	324	14
Cabbage	3,283	737	1,545	2,414	2,540	3,513	798
Carrots	2,508	621	1,725	1,996	2,082	2,330	537
Cauliflower	1,364	370	805	531	854	1,273	179
Celery	3,029	642	2,804	2,056	2,289	3,358	532
Corn, green	3	8	1	---	3	42	77
Cucumbers	115	255	138	20	7	137	41
Eggplant	3	---	4	---	---	18	---
Escarole	151	18	155	133	174	205	23
Greens, except spinach	204	43	172	256	256	224	36
Lettuce and romaine	7,390	2,120	6,727	5,736	5,492	6,755	2,389
Mixed vegetables	3,962	770	3,174	3,902	3,062	3,144	508
Onions	973	948	2,393	2,416	1,860	2,023	618
Peas, green	86	79	56	12	---	30	75
Peppers, green	392	75	98	68	395	220	68
Spinach	803	38	488	506	449	838	48
Tomatoes	293	84	1,025	299	605	1,587	524
Turnips and rutabagas	51	---	40	40	13	4	---
Watermelons	---	---	---	---	---	---	15
Total of above	25,907	7,464	22,401	20,946	20,757	26,920	7,075
Potatoes:							
Early	1,031	950	122	190	692	1,755	1,282
Intermediate	2	---	91	23	---	---	---
Late, surplus	26,442	4,655	25,678	20,714	24,348	33,905	5,118
Late, other	369	50	546	477	375	119	---
Total	27,844	5,655	26,437	21,404	25,415	35,779	6,400
Sweetpotatoes	622	102	858	542	459	369	30
Grand total	54,373	13,221	49,696	42,892	46,631	63,068	13,505

1/ Does not include shipments by motortruck. Includes Government purchases.

Compiled from reports of the Production and Marketing Administration.

Table 7.- Potatoes: Unweighted average prices for stock of generally good quality and condition (U. S. No. 1, size A, when quoted), at shipping points and terminal markets, indicated periods, 1948 and 1949

Location and variety	Unit	1948 Month March	1948 Week ended Apr. 17	1948-49 season Month Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Week ended Apr. 16
	Sack of	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Shipping points:								
New crop:								
Dade County, Florida 1/2/	50-lb.	2.57	---	---	---	2.41	2.09	1.97
Hastings, Fla. Sebago 2/	50-lb.	---	---	---	---	---	2.42	1.95
Lower Rio Grande Valley points, Texas 1/	50-lb.	---	3.50	---	---	---	---	2.26
Kern County, California Long White	100-lb.	---	2/5.70	---	---	---	---	---
Old crop:								
San Luis Valley, Colorado Red McClure 2/	100-lb.	3.86	---	2.97	3.09	3.09	3.27	---
Idaho Falls, Idaho, Russet Burbank 2/	100-lb.	4.83	---	2.69	3.19	3.45	3.18	3.52
Aroostook County, Maine various varieties	100-lb.	2.99	3.04	3.04	3.00	3.17	3.25	3.20
West Michigan points:								
Chippewa	100-lb.	3.06	---	2.60	2.90	2.99	3.01	---
Russet Rural	100-lb.	2.80	---	2.30	2.64	2.80	2.95	---
Western Nebraska, Platte Valley points, Bliss Triumph, 2/	100-lb.	3.78	---	2.97	3.45	3.22	3.08	---
Rochester, New York various varieties	100-lb.	3.12	3.38	2.72	3.07	3.01	3.35	3.55
Red River Valley, North Dakota, various varieties	100-lb.	2.69	3/2.75	(not reported)				
Yakima, Ellensburg Dist., Wash., Russet Burbank 2/	100-lb.	5.20	---	2.98	3.19	3.45	3.60	---
Stevens Point, Wisconsin various varieties 3/	100-lb.	2.86	---	2.26	2.59	2.70	2.78	3.25
Terminal markets								
New York:								
Bliss Triumph, Fla. (new)	50-lb.	3.21	4.55	---	3.28	3.25	2/2.83	2/2.88
Bliss Triumph, Nebr. (old)	50-lb.	2.98	---	2.52	3.18	2.98	---	---
Green Mountain, L. I.	100-lb.	3.48	3.56	3.52	3.63	3.69	3.72	---
Green Mountain, Maine	100-lb.	3.78	3.72	3.62	3.82	3.91	4.05	4.10
Katahdin, Maine	100-lb.	3.79	3.72	3.69	3.82	3.91	4.05	4.10
Russet Burbank, Idaho 2/	100-lb.	6.50	7.04	4.55	5.10	5.71	5.24	5.16
Chicago:								
New crop:								
Bliss Triumph, Florida 2/	50-lb.	3.18	4.70	---	3.85	2.99	2.72	2.81
Old crop:								
Bliss Triumph, Nebr. 2/	100-lb.	4.79	5.32	---	---	4.00	4.15	4.45
Bliss Triumph, Midw. 3/	100-lb.	3.50	3.82	3.23	3.40	3.45	4.10	---
Cobbler, Midw. 3/	100-lb.	3.00	---	2.90	---	---	3.25	3.90
Red McClure, Colorado 2/	100-lb.	4.79	5.03	3.86	4.15	4.19	4.29	---
Russet Burbank, Idaho 2/	100-lb.	5.97	6.92	3.93	4.61	4.94	4.29	4.60

1/ Bliss Triumph. 2/ Washed. 3/ Washed and unwashed.

Compiled from records of the Production and Marketing Administration.

Table 8.- Potatoes, commercial early: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, average 1938-47, annual 1948, and indicated 1949 1/

Seasonal group	Acreage: Average 1938-47	Acreage: 1948	Acreage: Indicated 1949	Yield per acre: Average 1938-47	Yield per acre: 1948	Yield per acre: Indicated 1949	Production: Average 1938-47	Production: 1948	Production: Indicated 1949
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Bu.	Bu.	Bu.	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Winter ..	12,400	8,100	9,000	132	190	210	1,649	1,542	1,893
Early Spring .	27,110	26,900	22,600	120	118	159	3,234	3,164	3,599
Late Spring .	175,990	168,100	143,000	177	266	---	31,386	44,787	---
Summer ..	126,990	117,700	2/100,600	170	232	---	21,552	27,287	---
Total .	342,490	320,800	275,200	168	239	---	57,821	76,780	---

1/ This acreage and production is later included in the reports of total potatoes.
2/ Intended.

Table 9.- Sweetpotatoes: Unweighted average wholesale price per bushel for stock of generally good quality and condition (U. S. No. 1 when quoted), at New York and Chicago, indicated periods, 1948 and 1949

Market, variety, and source	1948: Month March	1948: Week ended Apr. 17	1948-49 season: Month Dec.	Month Jan.	Month Feb.	Month March	Week ended April 16
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
New York							
Golden, Maryland	3.03	---	2.57	2.47	2.80	3.00	3.63
Golden, New Jersey	3.01	3.25	2.56	2.70	2.91	3.58	3.95
Jersey type, New Jersey ..	2.67	2.78	2.40	2.45	2.47	3.08	3.70
Porto Rican, Louisiana ...	4.03	---	---	---	---	4.84	---
Porto Rican, Maryland	2.65	---	2.94	2.75	2.81	---	---
Porto Rican, N. C. and S.C.	3.73	3.82	3.81	3.80	4.00	4.52	5.28
General average	3.17	3.20	3.05	3.03	3.18	3.81	4.50
Chicago Jersey type, Ill.	3.03	---	3.52	3.51	3.83	3.75	---
Nancy Hall, Illinois	2.97	---	3.16	3.16	3.45	3.50	---
Nancy Hall, Tennessee	2.83	2.78	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.59	4.96
Porto Rican, Illinois	3.31	3.50	3.50	3.62	3.92	---	---
Porto Rican, Louisiana ...	3.79	3.74	4.00	4.14	4.17	4.37	6.10
Porto Rican, Tennessee ...	3.32	3.20	3.56	3.64	3.79	3.94	5.32
General average	3.34	3.20	3.56	3.72	3.87	4.08	5.48

Compiled from records of the Production and Marketing Administration.

Table 10.- Average prices received by farmers for selected field crops, United States, April 15, 1949, with comparisons

Crop and unit	Average: Aug. 1909-July 1914	Average: Jan. 1935-Dec. 1939	Apr. 15, 1948	Feb. 15, 1949	Mar. 15, 1949	Apr. 15, 1949
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Potatoes, per bushel ...	.697	.717	1/2.07	1.72	1.74	1.81
Sweetpotatoes, per bu. .	.878	.807	2.40	2.44	2.54	2.75
Beans, dry, edible, cwt.	3.37	3.52	11.10	7.85	7.75	7.81
Peas, dry, field, cwt. .	---	2/1.40	1/5.50	4.83	4.27	3.47

1/ Revised. 2/ Two-year average, January 1938 to December 1939.

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